

NOV 23 1976



Deacon Training

Charles Treadway, deacon ministry consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board, taught a one-day course in Jackson to prepare church leaders as certified deacon trainers.

Certified deacon training offers guidance and materials, says Treadway, in helping a deacon to understand, "his responsibility according to what we believe are Biblical concepts."

Treadway, who is training leaders to hold deacon conferences and retreats because of the high number of requests for help in planning them, says that he's sensed a hunger for deacons to work with people rather than things.

"A deacon is for ministry rather than management," he says.

Baptist Hospital In Indonesia Escapes Time Bomb Explosion

By William N. McElrath

BUKITTINGGI, Indonesia (BP) — Baptist medical missionaries narrowly escaped death and a newly opened Baptist hospital in Indonesia avoided destruction when a time bomb failed to explode.

The homemade device had been planted in a lavatory at Immanuel Hospital in Bukittinggi by a young man claiming to be an outpatient. A loose wire, weak battery or other mechanical failure kept the 34 sticks of TNT from detonating.

According to Indonesian military authorities here, everything within a 10-meter radius could have been destroyed. Such a blast could have demolished the recently completed hospital building. Southern Baptist missionaries Dr. Winfield Applewhite and Everly Hayes, along with numerous clinic patients and hospital employees, could have been killed.

Baptist work in Bukittinggi has faced strong opposition since it began

in 1962. Permits to buy land for a Christian hospital, built it and operate it have been repeatedly blocked.

The outpatient clinic finally opened on Dec. 1, 1975, without fanfare which might have aroused further controversy. A shortage of doctors now delays opening of the inpatient department.

The crudely assembled time bomb used two batteries, a detonator and a watch with all but one hand removed. These objects, along with the sticks of TNT, were hidden inside a heavy plastic bag, with fruit and cans of cookies on top.

Convention Board Adopts Resolution On Pornography

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in its pre-convention meeting Monday, adopted a resolution concerning the sale of pornographic materials in the state, including movies, and heard reports from several committees.

Board members also heard a report that Cooperative Program receipts through the Jackson office as of Nov. 15 have amounted to \$6,425,478. This is on target for meeting the budget for the year. Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the board, told the body. It is \$87,823 more than had been received for the same period last year, he pointed out.

The state missions offering as of Nov. 15, he revealed, had reached \$197,765. While this is still short of the goal of \$275,000, it is already \$37,931 beyond the previous high total, which came last year.

The pornography resolution, presented by Rev. Mel Craft, pastor of Tyertown Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas, read as follows:

WHEREAS, pornography or sexual obscenity continues to be portrayed through movies, television, music lyrics, magazines, paperbacks, and newspapers, and

Sunday Schools Gain 11,000 In Enrollment

The net enrollment gain in the Sunday Schools of Mississippi Baptist churches amounted to more than 11,000 members during the Sunday School year which ended on September 30, according to Rev. Bryant Cummings, director of the Sunday School Department for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

According to reports from association letters received from 71 out of 75 associations, the figure was exactly 11,000, Cummings said.

The net enrollment gain for the previous year was under 5,000.

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1976

Volume C, Number 40

NASHVILLE TN 37203
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SO BAPT HIS SOCIETY
005 DTW 002012 11-11



A Converted Thief Might Return It But To Be Baptized, He'd Have To

CARROLTON, Ill. (BP) — Bill Taylor, pastor of Faith Baptist Church here, has a forgiving attitude toward a thief who stole the church's new baptism before it could even be installed.

The church's new fiberglass baptism was on a truck coming from Texas to Illinois, Taylor said, when the driver stopped for the night in an Arkansas motel. The next morning when he got up, the baptism was gone.

"The baptism was in the open on the truck bed and not in a crate. So whoever took it knew what he was taking," Taylor said.

"Since we hadn't taken delivery, the loss didn't cost us, as the company made it good," the pastor added, "however, it did delay our building program for a week."

"I've heard of everything being stolen but never a baptism. I can't imagine what anyone would want with it, unless a moonshiner plans to use it for a mash barrel."

Then Taylor mused, "But should he get converted and wanted to be baptized, I guess I'd be willing to immerse him — even in a stolen baptism."

tists here of continuing concern and support.

William N. (Mac) McElrath is the Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Indonesia.

Mississippi State Conference Features New Orleans Layman, BSSB, HMB Staff

A. Morgan Brian Jr., a New Orleans layman, will be the principal speaker, Dec. 3 and 4, for the Mississippi State Conference for pastors, staff members, deacons, and their wives to be held at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Brian, a Baptist, is an attorney.

The conference will be sponsored by the Church Administration area of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Leon Emery is the consultant in church administration for the board.

Howard Feshee, secretary of the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in

Baptist Training Day Is A Mississippi First

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board held what is believed to be the first Training Day held by a state convention, Nov. 11.

Twenty-two courses in the five church program areas: Sunday School, Church Training, Brotherhood, Woman's Missionary Union, and Church Music, drew more than 250 persons to Jackson for a five hour study course.

Pictured below is Wett Campbell, a Baptist Sunday School Board consultant, teaching the course in Administering Church Training. Right, is Chester Vaughn, MBCB program director, welcoming participants. And bottom right is Fran Rodgers, a volunteer who taught General Children's Leadership — Musical Experiences with the Autoharp.



Per Capita Giving Honored At MBC

New Concord Church in Jasper Association led the state in per capita gifts in total missions giving for 1976, according to an announcement from the office of Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

New Concord Church, with a resident membership of six, gave \$940 in total missions gifts for a per capita record of \$156.66. The church is without a pastor.

Learned Church in Hinds-Madison Association was second in per capita gifts in total missions giving. With 31 resident members this church gave \$4,465.87 for a per capita figure of \$143.40. Dr. Woodrow Clark is the pastor.

The third place church was Harmontown Church in Lafayette Association. The 107 resident members gave \$12,402.52 for a per capita record of \$115.91. The pastor is J. D. Stanfill.

First Baptist Church of Columbus was fourth in per capita gifts in total missions giving. This church has 1,578 resident members. The total gifts amounted to \$177,635.77 for a per capita figure of \$112.57. Joe McKeever is the pastor.

Total missions giving in the state amounted to \$11,075,731.56. With 427,040 resident members in the state, this made a per capita figure of \$25.50.

Music will be under the direction of Tom Larrimore of Jackson, a music evangelist; and Chuck Endley, student at William Carey College, will be the instrumentalist.

David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, will direct the Bible study. Three other Mississippians will be involved in leading conferences. Roy Collum, director of the Department of Evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,

will join Hogue for a conference on The Doctor and the G.A.R.E. Revivals. A conference on Deacon-Pastor-Staff Relationships will be led by Clifton Perkins, director of the Department of Church - Minister Relations for the board.

Mrs. Martha Nelson, wife of the pastor of First Baptist Church, Peahatchie, will lead a conference on Sharing His Role for the wives.

Other conferences will be on "Improving Your Caring Skills" by Ishee,

"Ministering to Church Families" by Mosley, and "Deacons Fulfilling their Mission" by Treadaway.

The conference was formerly for

pastors and deacons chairmen and their wives. This year it has been expanded to include all staff members and all deacons and their wives.

The meal on Friday evening will be a dutch affair at a cafeteria and will be optional. Those planning to attend should contact Emery. There is no registration fee.

Leaders In Giving To C.P. Recognized At Convention

Twenty-seven churches were to be recognized as leaders in Cooperative Program gifts through the state convention office during the Tuesday evening session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The convention was meeting this week at First Baptist Church in Jackson for its 141st annual session.

The 27 churches represented the top 10 churches in four categories. Ten of the churches were among the top 10 in two or more categories. Three churches were among the top 10 in three categories.

First Church, Jackson, led the state in total Cooperative Program gifts for the past year with \$163,819. This church also led in the largest dollar increase for the past year over the year before. The difference was \$67,000.

First Church, Jackson, with 3,872 resident members, also was represented in the top 10 in the increase in per capita giving through the Cooperative Program for 1976 over 1975. The increase was \$17.55 per person, for sixth place. Frank Pollard is the pastor.

First Church, Leland, led the state in per capita giving for 1976 with \$72.54 per person. This church has 690 resident members, and James Richardson is pastor.

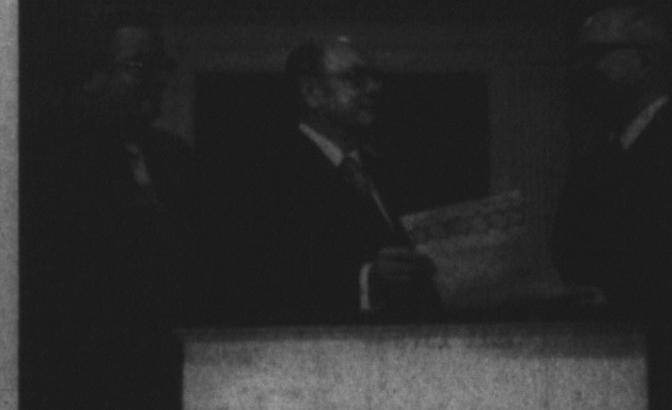
Harmontown Church in Lafayette Association led the state in increase in per capita giving for 1976 over 1975. This church with 107 resident members increased its per capita giving by \$30.34. Harmontown was fourth in per capita giving for the year with a figure

of \$64.57. J. D. Stanfill is the pastor. In addition to First Church, Jackson, two other churches were among the top 10 in three categories.

First Church, Columbus, was third in total gifts with \$105,905, second in per capita giving with \$87.17, and fourth in total dollar increase for 1976 over 1975 with \$19,051. Joe McKeever is the pastor, and the church has 1,578 resident members.

Seven other churches were represented in two categories. Broadmoor Church, Jackson, was second in

(Continued on page 2)



Howell Honored

Elmer Howell, director of the Brotherhood Department of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was honored during the Baptist Men's Conference Monday because of his upcoming retirement Jan. 31. Assisting in the honor were Mel Craft, left, pastor of Tyertown Baptist Church, and Marvin Graham, right, of Mt. Olive, president of the Baptist Men's Conference. (Story on Page 2.)

SBC Unified Budget Is Up 13.4 Percent

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program unified budget entered the 1976-77 fiscal year running 13.4 percent ahead of its progress at the same point in 1975-76.

At the end of October, the first month in the new fiscal year, the Cooperative Program had received \$4,221,121 from Southern Baptist churches via the Cooperative Programs of 33 state conventions covering 50 states. Last October, the total was \$3,721,304.

Adding another \$521,041 received in designated funds (a 16.51 percent increase), total contributions for the month come to \$4,742,162 — or 13.76 percent more than the \$4,188,494 received last October.

The 1976-77 national Cooperative Program goal is \$55 million. That includes \$40,000,000 in basic operating funds for SBC agencies' worldwide programs, \$1,000,000 in capital needs and an additional \$4,000,000 in challenge operating funds.

(Continued on page 2)

Ohio Baptists Consider State-Association Link

FAIRBORN, Ohio (BP) — Churches which lost membership in their local association would also lose state convention participation if an amendment, offered here at the 1976 annual session of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, passes next year.

Paul Payne, outgoing president of the convention, relinquished his gavel to introduce the amendment, which stems from the eviction of two churches by the Greater Cincinnati Baptist Association in 1975.

Both of the churches were evicted because of participation in the charismatic movement, with the question of alien baptism entering into the decision on one of them. The charismatic issue was not debated at the Ohio convention, a spokesman said, although another convention officer, Earl Dingus of Chillicothe, chairman of the credentials committee, referred to a church whose pastor "is allowed by his church to baptize a person without the person coming into the membership of that church."

The church, practicing what Dingus termed "alien immersion," was not named, but was apparently one of the two churches in Cincinnati affected by the charismatic issue, the spokesman said.

The statement by Payne, pastor of First Baptist Church, Huber Heights, a suburb of Dayton, reads: "In the event a church deviates from doctrine or engages in practices contrary to those held by this convention, to the extent that an association withdraws fellowship from said church, upon certification of this action by the association to the executive board of the state convention, all benefits and privileges afforded to the church by the state convention (including the seating of messengers to the convention), shall cease until such time as the infraction be corrected and fellowship be restored."

In other action, "messengers" adopted a study committee report that will lead to establishing a retirement center ministry. It would be first institutional ministry for the Ohio state convention since its founding in 1954.

Leaders In Giving To C.P. Recognized At Convention

(Continued from page 1)
total gifts with \$111,650 and ninth with total dollar increase with \$10,243. David Grant is the pastor of the church with 3,086 resident members.

First Baptist Church, Starkville, was fourth in total gifts with \$85,645 and second in total dollar increase with \$20,957. The church has 2,312 resident members, and Raymond Lloyd is the pastor.

First Church, Meridian, was sixth in total gifts with \$73,757 and sixth in total dollar increase with \$12,804. Bev Tinney is the pastor of the church with 1,432 resident members.

First Church Greenville, was seventh in total gifts with \$69,733 and eighth in total dollar increase with \$11,177. Barry Landrum is the pastor.

TOP TEN — COOPERATIVE PROGRAM—1976

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PASTOR	TOTAL
1. FBC, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Frank Pollard	\$160,619
2. Broadmoor	Hinds-Madison	David Grant	111,650
3. FBC, Columbus	Loveland	Joe McKeever	105,000
4. FBC, Starkville	Ottobieba	Raymond Lloyd	85,645
5. FBC, Grenada	Grenada	John Lee Taylor	73,757
6. FBC, Meridian	Lauderdale	Beverly Tinney	72,257
7. FBC, Greenville	Washington	Barry Landrum	68,235
8. FBC, Yazoo City	Yazoo	James Yates	65,304
9. Calvary, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Joe Tates	63,376
10. FBC, Hattiesburg	Loveland	Brooks Wester	59,482

TOP TEN — PER CAPITA — 1976

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PASTOR	PER CAPITA	1975 REG. MEMB.
1. FBC, Leland	Washington	James Richardson	72.54	606
2. FBC, Columbus	Loveland	Joe McKeever	67.17	1,078
3. Learned	Hinds-Madison	Woodrow Clark	65.13	31
4. Harmontown	Ottobieba	J. D. Standif	64.57	107
5. Prentiss	Grenada	David Michel	53.70	558
6. FBC, Corinth	Yazoo	James Yates	53.72	1,000
7. FBC, Newbern	Alcorn	John C. Taylor	61.58	720
8. FBC, Grenada	Grenada	Hardy Daniel, Jr.	61.45	1,200
9. FBC, Newton	Washington	George A. Myers	57.71	271
10. Pleasant Hill	Loveland	George A. Myers	57.94	270

TOP TEN — TOTAL DOLLAR INCREASE IN 1976 OVER 1975—

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PASTOR	ANNUAL INCREASE	1975 REG. MEMB.
1. FBC, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Frank Pollard	\$7,000	3,872
2. FBC, Starkville	Ottobieba	Raymond Lloyd	25,007	2,212
3. Parkway	Hinds-Madison	Bill Cauley	20,720	2,647
4. FBC, Columbus	Loveland	Joe McKeever	19,051	1,978
5. FBC, Hattiesburg	Loveland	Brooks Wester	12,758	1,364
6. FBC, Meridian	Lauderdale	Beverly Tinney	12,694	1,432
7. FBC, Grenada	Grenada	John Lee Taylor	11,477	1,200
8. FBC, Greenville	Washington	Barry Landrum	11,177	1,200
9. FBC, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	David Grant	10,423	3,086
10. FBC, Holly Springs	Marshall	Tommy Tates	9,945	652

TOP TEN — PER CAPITA INCREASE IN 1976 OVER 1975—

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PASTOR	PER CAPITA INCREASE	1975 REG. MEMB.
1. Harmontown	Lafayette	J. D. Standif	20.94	107
2. Egypt	Chickasaw	—	20.95	8
3. Bridgeman	Adams	Bill Adams	20.94	126
4. Highland	Tate	Claude Howe	19.78	44
5. Commission Road	Gulf Coast	Buddy Beam	18.99	26
6. FBC, Jackson	Hinds-Madison	Frank Pollard	17.55	3,872
7. Goodman Road	Deltico	Royland Crawford	16.43	12
8. Coopersburg	—	David G. Durst	16.18	120
9. Union	Pearl River	G. A. McCoy	15.90	600
10. Union	Smith	Billy R. Ballard	15.47	600

and the first Southern Baptist work there to be supervised separate from the state convention's executive board.

Messengers also elected Bob Batten, pastor of Lane Avenue Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio, as president.

and voted a total annual budget of \$2,334,973. Of that amount, \$558,147 is expected from the state convention's Cooperative Program unified budget, with \$275,000 going to SBC causes.

The 1977 convention will meet in Heath, Ohio, Nov. 2-4.



Our Church . . .

... And The Cooperative Program

By David Grant, Pastor
Broadmoor, Jackson

All of my life I have loved pie. Almost any kind you may name is my favorite. Because of my love for most all, it is difficult to say which is my favorite.

While I was a student pastor, one of the good ladies of the church told me one day that she had baked me my favorite pie. To my embarrassment, I guessed about the third or fourth one before I named the one she had baked.

I could easily be caught in the same trap if someone asked me my favorite hymn. But there is one among many that means much to me — "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Some words in this great marching hymn are, "I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps."

These words can be paraphrased to express my feeling about the Cooperative Program. "Mine eyes have seen the wonders of its work." I have seen

church buildings erected on home and foreign soil because of Southern Baptists' gifts through this program. I have seen people around the world as they serve the Lord while living off salaries paid them through this means. I have ridden in vehicles driven by missionaries in remote parts of this earth that were purchased by funds provided through the Cooperative Program.

Other words of this great hymn are "Our God is marching on." He is marching through the slums and ghettos of the concrete jungles of modern America at the beating of the Cooperative Program drums. He is marching through the thatched-hut villages of foreign soil with the clashing cymbals of the Cooperative Program. He is marching through the corridors of hospitals, the halls of colleges, the cottages of homeless, and the dusty paths of migrants under the trumpet sound of the Cooperative Program.

Southern Baptists are marching together and in step with their God with the Cooperative Program as an instrument.

Because of what my eyes have seen and because of what the eyes of Broadmoor Baptist Church members have seen through the Cooperative Program, we give as much of our budget to the Cooperative Program as we possibly can. Each year we put forth effort to see that our amount is increased. The budget for 1977 includes the largest percentage and the largest number of dollars and cents we have ever given through the Cooperative Program. We are making plans now to increase it even more in the immediate future.

NOTE: Broadmoor Baptist Church with a resident membership of 3,086 gave \$36.17 per member through the Cooperative Program to date in 1976, a net increase of \$10,243.84 to date over 1975.

PRAYER LIFT

YALOBUSHNA

November 21
Donnie Stewart, First, Coffeyville
Edgar Harvey, Dividing Ridge
Billy T. McDaniel, Elam
J. W. Carpenter, Friendship
G. B. Basden, Hopewell

November 22

T. J. Wright, New Hope
Buford C. Sellers, Sr., Oakland
Harry Sartain, O'Tuckalofa
Sonny Gillis, Pine Grove
Jim Lindsey, Sylvarena

YAZOO

W. H. Johnson, Jr., Anding

November 24

Billy McCreary, Benton
C. Reed Dicken, Jr., Benton
Gary Black, Bethlehem
James Allgood, Black Jack
Ben Bennett, Calvary

November 24

Farris Smith, Center Ridge
Tom Phillips, Central
Steve Jackson, Concord
R. Y. Gerrard, Eden
James F. Yates, 1st, Yazoo City

November 25

Ellis Moore, Oak Grove
Gibbie McMillan, Ogden
J. G. Hood, Oil City
Robert Martin, Providence
Phillip Douglas, Rocky Springs

November 27

Gene Speight, Sartaria
Art Slatten, Short Creek
Cliff Shipp, Southside
Lewis Gooch, Tinsley
Jim Sellers, Temple



Newsbrieves In The

World Of Religion

Oklahoma City (BP) — Oklahoma voters turned down a constitutional amendment which would have brought liquor-by-the-drink to the state. Voters in only six of the state's 77 counties voted in favor of open saloons. The liquor-by-the-drink measure lost for the second time in four years. Baptist churches in the state carried the major load of defeating the amendment, an Oklahoma Baptist spokesman said.

New York (RNS) — A film "publication" of the entire Bible, which is expected to be in production through the 21st century, may prove a boon for Bible teachers on Christian college campuses. The New Media Bible is being produced an interreligious group known as "The Genesis Project." Its first set of 10 films, depicting the first 22 chapters of Genesis and the first two chapters of Luke, has just been released.

London (RNS) — It was suggested here that Queen Elizabeth name at least one woman to serve as one of her several chaplains, now all males. And the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Anglican Primate, has been urged to include among his advisers a woman chaplain when, next April, he goes to Rome to confer with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican.

These recommendations were made by Dr. Una Kroll as she spoke before the diamond jubilee celebration of the Wives' Fellowship (Anglican) at Royal Festival Hall.

Indianapolis (RNS) — Sherryl E. Michaelson, a student at the Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary in Denver, has been endorsed by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as its first woman military chaplain. Miss Michaelson, 24, will become an Air Force chaplain when she completes her seminary training and is ordained in May 1977.

Trenton (RNS) — New Jersey voters have approved a controversial casino gambling proposal which would permit Las Vegas type gambling in Atlantic City. Casino supporters spent \$1 million in the campaign to persuade New Jersey voters that the proposal would revitalize the deteriorating resort city, create new jobs, and help the state and its disabled and elderly people. The religious coalition which led the anti-casino campaign spent about \$15,000.

60 Percent Present High Attendance Day

NASHVILLE (BP) — Nearly 4.4 million persons, 60 percent of all Southern Baptists enrolled in Sunday School, were present Sunday, Oct. 31, on "High Attendance Day" across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

While representing a larger than average attendance, the figure fell short of the five million goal for that day.

On an average Sunday, approximately 52 percent of the total enrollment attends Sunday School. The 4,388,036 present on High Attendance Sunday represents almost 600,000 more than usually attend.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas had the best increase this year, with a total of 656,108 present, compared to 610,747 last year on High Attendance Sunday.

The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and the Northern Plains Baptist Convention ended in a virtual tie for the highest percentage of attendance compared to enrollment, with 75.8 percent and 75.7

Triumphant? You Bet!

By James Richardson

I love the church! Does this sound like religious rhetoric or casual conversation? I don't mean for it to.

Before my infant lips could frame an understandable sound, I was taken to a small white frame building in Vardaman, Mississippi, which was a church. Here was a little band of faithful, plain people who gathered together in the name of Jesus Christ — to celebrate Him and being His. Before I knew what the celebration was about, I felt the special quality of the people and the place, and knew in my child mind that these were "my folks."

The first time I suspected that God was speaking to me (of all things) was in a meeting of that church. I tried to go to sleep with my head in my Mother's lap and to blot it out, but that old preacher kept on and on. Later, in that same church, we gathered together with the body of my Mother before we buried her on a hill at the edge of that little town.

It was in another "church" that I made the vows to the girl who has steadied my life and "filled out the empty spaces in me" for 28 years. When I first knew that I had to change jobs and start all over and try to preach, this knowledge came during a meeting in a church. Since that day, the most satisfying hours of my life have come in the framework of Christians gathered together — in the church. My children have all come to know who they are and to give that which they are to Jesus Christ in the setting of a great fellowship of believers. So, I love the church. The most sacred moments of my life, my pilgrimage, have been inextricably tied up with the church.

The theme of this Convention is A Triumphant Church for a Troubled World. In order to set this in perspective, I feel that we once again need to define, delineate and add to understanding about what we mean when we speak of the church.

Let me make an attempt at a definition. A missionary on the way to Ceylon at the close of World War I had to stop in a Japanese held port. She was given a questionnaire which included a query about her religion. In this slot, she wrote "Christian." The port official called her in again. "This is not enough, I need to know which damnation." I can't speak about the church in general. I cannot speak about the 35,000 plus churches in our denomination, or even the Baptist churches in Mississippi. All of these vary somewhat in theology, program, and approach. I can speak with some authority about the church where I belong. Here a fundamental truth breaks through. The church is never really the church in general. It is always the church in particular. Here is the real church.

In Dana's Manual of Ecclesiology, he suggests that the usage of the term in the New Testament offers guidance here. The word translated "church" is used 114 times. Six times it appears as assembly; three times is used with future application, in a generic sense; 12 times it contains the idea of the spiritual Israel; and 83 times the usage is in terms of a local group. This pushes the understanding to note that it is the local congregation which is the clearest picture of the church. The church in this local congregation which gathers together regularly to worship God; it is the people of God at a given time in history at a given place. This, added to experience, scripture, and history gives us insight to suggest that a local church is:

A building — "House of God" is not a bad description. Of course, there were no church "buildings," as we know them, until the fourth century, but the idea of a place where God and His people get together in a special way is legitimate and good. There is an apocryphal story about Zacchaeus after he met Jesus. He was often seen early in the morning carrying water to a sycamore tree, pruning its branches, fertilizing its roots. Someone asked Mrs. Zacchaeus, "Why?" She replied, "He loves that old tree. He was sitting in its branches when he first saw Jesus. That is the place where he found the Lord and his life was changed." There is a sycamore tree in the life of every Christian. For many of us, it is a church building.

A local church is:
A body — This provocative idea comes from Paul. It carries with it the thought of going, reaching out, meeting needs, and the acting out of personhood. It also bears the truth that a body functions properly only when it does the things which the head commands. With the Lord as the head, a local church finds and carries out its perfect function. I had a beautiful sister who died a few years ago from a brain tumor. In the early stages she and I were talking about her illness. She spoke of making up a bed, "I can see that the spread is off too far on one side; I know what needs to be done, but I don't know what to do to get it done." A body is in serious trouble if it cannot take instruction from its head. Each church finds its Mission as that local body plans and functions in the creative tension atmosphere of keeping current the guidance from the head.

A local church is:

A family, a home. Every person needs a place where he "belongs" and knows that he is special. On a personal level, ideally, home is that place. Man longs, most deeply, for forgiveness, acceptance, love and fellowship. These are hard to find items, but they can be found at home. In another sense, broader perhaps, the local church provides that place of belonging. Here we see the family concept enlarged and deepened and blessed.

I knew him 20 years ago — Mr. Tom had not always been a church man, but when he found his place in that little church, he found a home. I can still remember his return to the place after some weeks of illness and enforced absence. When he came in the door, with unabashed emotion he said, loudly enough for everybody to hear, "This is the best place in the world."

A local church is:

A fellowship — a community. As soon as missionaries arrive in a new field, infant congregations are formed. They realize that for the Christian, there is no reality without community. "I cannot," said John Baille, "be a Christian all by myself." This imperfect fellowship, centered in Christ, is miraculous in its effect. To an astonishing degree, it has provided men and women with a sense of personal dignity which otherwise they would never have known.

A local church is:

A functioning organism — we need to zero in here. There are at least five vital functions of a New Testament church:

1. Worship — a regular systematic celebration. I think this is the most vital of the functions of the church.

Chafin has said, "Without a congregation that meets together on a regular basis and celebrates what God has done in Christ and stands under the study of the word and loves one another, there are no evangelism programs in the world that will help."

Archbishop William Temple made a statement at a crisis point in world history which was greeted with amusement by some, amazement by others. He said, "Worship is the only thing that will save our civilization from collapse. To worship is to feed the mind with the truth of God, to quicken the conscience with the holiness of God, to purge the imagination with the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." The church cannot survive without worship. Of all the institutions in the world, the church can best offer persons what they need for wholeness. Salvation is a gift of God. It cannot be engineered by man in cold blood, but the context for conversion must most often be the community of God, gathered together for worship.

2. Proclamation — verbalizing, the message of Good News. A "proclaimer" is God's chosen vehicle through which His spirit works. In his caustic little book, *The Comfortable Pew*, Pierre Berton says, "To the average man, the real image of the church emerges from the Sunday sermon." He may be wrong here as he is in some of the remainder of this work, but this says enough to jolt me and keep on pushing at me about those times that I stand behind that pulpit. Most of us who preach have a deep sense of the fantastic importance of this whole operation, and we must never forget that being casual about this is hypocrisy at its worst!

3. Teaching and Training — a systematic guided study of the Bible and training of believers to serve as God leads them. We miss a part of the commission, and do a great disservice to the people of God if we leave off or play down the teaching and training.

The aim of such efforts is to cause each Christian to discover his own special gifts and reap the deep satisfaction and sense of purpose in exercising his gifts.

4. Ministry — the "body" exists to express the love of Jesus and to reach out and touch the hurts and needs of humanity. All of the conversation in

the world cannot make up for the real and practical meeting of needs in the name of Jesus. A church with a deep sense and atmosphere of Ministry has understood the intention of Jesus.

5. Evangelism and Missions — the very nature of the gospel compels us to share the Good News. The church of Jesus Christ does not have Missions; its very life is Missions! Missions is not extra-curricular, it is not even an elective, it is the essential meaning of the church. Devoid of Missions, it is possible to have a successful institution, but it is not the church. The whole point is involved with getting this Good News around!

So here are the basic functions: worship, proclamation, teaching, training, ministering, evangelizing and going, and sending. The Mississippi Baptist Convention makes its big contribution to us at this point, at the point of function. This great Convention does its best thing when it enables me, my church, you, your church, to function at our top best in worship, proclamation, teaching, training, and mission.

From where I stand, the Convention function is that of an enabler. There are some things the denomination cannot do for us. Our basic problems, frankly, are not "the literature" or "big brass" in Nashville, or Jackson. They can be more nearly stated by phrases like indifference, a sense of insignificance, unconcern for the lost, and a lack of real commitment by people and pastors. "The denomination does not set the church on fire — it works the other way around!"

We expect, and get, some tangible things from our fine organizational structure. These include programs, resource materials, literature. We also get models for success: "This is the way we did it, and it worked," and we get our greatest blessing and benefit from the lived-out lives of men and women: from charismatic leadership which continues to give new, dynamic, fresh vision; exciting image; a sense of solidarity; and the challenge of a common goal. We need to note, honestly, that the best "Program" in the world cannot prop up a local church which has lost or dimmed its vision of its world and its commitment to Jesus Christ.

This leads us back to our theme — A Triumphant Church for a Troubled World! There is no question about the troubled world. A casual glance at any daily newspaper in the world will testify to this fact. In the last decade, many people have had doubts about the triumphant church! "Triumphant" suggests the sound of trumpets and the winning of battles. The very idea has something of a shout about it! This has been a stark contrast to some of the human maneuvering and petty philosophy that most of us have seen and had part in.

Another contrast is in the sophisticated prattle about God's vague call to many things, with care to suggest that the pastorate, the parish ministry, is one of the lesser calls. Some of the learned commentary about the irrelevance of the comfortable pew is devoid of victory connotation.

Halford Luccock went one time to Cornell University for a speaking engagement. A courteous professor said to him, "It's nice to have you here, but you must know that the church is washed up. It will not be very long until it's just a little company on a side street singing ditties about heaven."

Luccock replied, "Thank you. That was beautifully said. You have just described the most powerful force in all history."

The idea started when Andrew brought his brother to Jesus, was amplified and positioned at Pentecost, and moved out of that little bare upper room, in the human hands of blundering, fallible men, to leap across the boundaries — to triumph, if you please, over the high and heavy barricades of culture, race, geography, language, and politics. This ought not surprise us. Jesus said, "This is my church, and it will move

right on through even the gates of hell." This ties together with His beautiful, simple teaching about His church. He employed a number of metaphors. He spoke of "salt" and "light" and "leaven." At first glance, these seem to be very different from one another, but as we look at them, we soon realize that they have one feature in common: they all represent penetration. Each one of them (salt, light, leaven) is lost in the process of being used, each is radically expendable and superbly creative. This is in contrast to the Old Testament idea of remnant which suggests to me something to be guarded, protected. Here He restates the principle of losing to save.

So, I am convinced that the New Testament church is the most important and the most remarkable organization the world has ever known! Since its beginning, nations have come and gone, the church still stands; wars have been won and lost, the church still stands; geography has drawn new lines, the church still stands; dictators have strutted their brief hour and become silent, the church still stands; men have crossed continents and gone to the moon, and the church still stands — triumphant, alive, and well — because it's His — not ours, because He made the plan and will keep on raising up people who will hear and follow. The church is still the important front runner in His plan for the world.

In that "Queen of the Epistles," Paul tells the Ephesians that God's purpose for the world is in the hands of the church. He died, the Book says, for the church. It doesn't mention the share group, or the prayer group, or the fellowship session, but says that the church is the bride of Christ, precious to Him in a unique manner. His purpose will not go unrealized nor will His church be defeated.

In Philadelphia, Penn., there is a small bookstore called Leary's. It is next door to Gimble's Department Store, and is 100 years old. For years the big store tried to buy Leary's. After making many offers, they spoke to the owners, "What is the matter with you? You could take this money and be on easy street." "We don't want to be on easy street," they replied, "We just want to stay on Ninth Street!" They did, and are still there.

So, if we are going to be triumphant anywhere, it has to be in our place: Main street, Broad street, McCord street, always preaching the gospel of the eternal God, and like those early ones, "walking about with gladness and singleness of heart!" It seems important to me that we gear ourselves to live and serve and operate in the light of His victory. This affair is a war already won. We are not called upon to be triumphant in somebody else's place, or somebody else's way, just in the place where He has put us — and in the way where He guides us as we keep on opening our lives to Him every day.

Three years ago my wife and I were in the city of DaNang, Vietnam. We were taken out to Childrens Hospital there, and walked through wards filled with suffering, sick, piteous children. With our hearts and minds staggered

(Continued on page 5)

Thursday, November 18, 1976

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Brotherhood Commission Loses Famous Trustee

(Continued from page 1)

\$125,000 from 1976-77. The remainder of the budget would come from sales of periodicals and merchandise.

Other action included the authorization of a survey to identify attitudes about Brotherhood work and suggestions for improving mission activities among Baptist men and boys. It would be conducted by the research services department of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The trustees also approved 1977-78 agencies goals calling for increasing to 17,500 the number of churches with

Brotherhood work, enlisting 1,450,000 persons in world mission conferences, involving 3,000 churches in lay renewal activities, raising total circulation of mission periodicals to 300,000, and increasing the number of men and boys in Brotherhood work to 575,000.

The trustees asked the agency staff to work with other SBC agencies in searching for solutions to world hunger, to develop a coordinated education approach to the problem, and to consider a specific time on the Baptist denominational calendar for focusing on world hunger.

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"...does more good than roses or vitamins." —Brethren Publishing House

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A Life Full of Surprises

Amazing changes are taking place in the lives of countless thousands of Christians across the country. Lloyd Ogilvie tells you about God's marvelous activity in *A Life Full of Surprises*. "The author knows what life today is like, and what God can do to turn every day into twenty-four hours of sunrise." —Christian Herald

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Steps to Prayer Power

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—Spiritual Frontiers Journals

Jo Kimmel's *Steps To Prayer Power* is "highly recommended to prayer groups and to individuals who wish to deepen their prayer life." —Religion in the News

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CNELIA

by Cornelia Wallace

"A warm, appealing book — rich with intimate glimpses of both Mrs. Wallace—and of Wallace himself." —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY



The colorful wife of controversial George Wallace describes with disarming frankness the couple's history, triumphs and testing.

\$7.95

BEFORE HONOR

by Capt. Eugene "Red" McDaniel

"This is a powerful, moving story of one man's journey to spiritual maturity that will profoundly affect Christians everywhere." —BOOKCAST



A P.O.W. of the North Vietnamese, downed Navy pilot Red McDaniel found light in the spiritual darkness of a Communist prison.

\$8.95

Rankin County Properties Paid Off

Miss Marjorie Patterson, executive secretary of the Mississippi Woman's Misionary Union, hands check to J. C. Renfroe, left, and Vance Dyess to pay off mission properties in Rankin County. Renfroe is director of missions for Rankin County Association, and Dyess is chairman of missions for the association. He is also pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Pearl. The checks amounted to \$40,817 for the property in Castilewood development and \$12,849 for the property at Crossgates, now a church. The funds were made available by the annual Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering sponsored by the WMU.

<img alt="A black and white photograph showing three people: a woman in a dark

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

What's Going On?

This week the Mississippi Baptist Convention has been in session in Jackson. This gives occasion to wonder if most of us truly realize what a tremendous force in the Lord's Kingdom is at work in the combined efforts of the churches which are cooperating to make up what is generally referred to as the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Actually, as we all know, the convention is a three-day meeting held in November each year. When it ends at noon on Thursday it is over until the next year. There is no convention in the interim period.

But, because we have no better word to describe the total effort of the 1,900 churches which pool their resources and efforts on a voluntary basis with the convention as the plan and report session, we are wont to call the entire set up the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Again, as we all know, the messengers sent from the churches elect a body of people at the convention to carry out between sessions the missions programs the messengers establish. This is the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The messengers also elect a Foundation board, a Christian Action Commission board, a Children's Village Board, college

trustees, and members of other committees and commissions to carry on programs in these areas.

How does such a loosely grouped body as these churches ever accomplish anything so far reaching? Each of the churches is completely autonomous, a fact that is terribly difficult for anyone to understand who is not a Baptist. The boards, committees, and commissions elected by the messengers answer only to those messengers, who won't be altogether the same group of people the next year as those who participated in their elections.

How, indeed, is anything ever accomplished?

Perhaps, from time to time, we need to look at the marvel that is Baptist cooperation in order that we might not lose sight of its value.

Cooperation is the key word.

It is a beautiful concept; and it works wondrously well because, we believe, it is scriptural. The First Century churches were certainly autonomous, and yet they had a program of voluntary cooperation, centered mostly around their missions efforts.

The churches throughout our state are carrying on a continuing witness in their own communities. In addition

they cooperate to have a dynamic and extensive missions effort going on continually all over the state.

But the dream and the reality do not stop there. These Mississippi churches are able to enter into a voluntary cooperative effort with almost 35,000 other churches all over the nation to carry out a gigantic witnessing effort that not only reaches across the nation but also encircles the world.

It is absolutely marvelous.

A main link in this chain of witnessing has been forged this week in Jackson. We must not ever shrug off as insignificant a church conference, an annual association meeting, the state convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention.

Each of us is a vital part of a concept that reaches farther and accomplishes more than any of us can easily imagine. We should participate to the best of our ability in whatever part of it we are able, and trust the Lord for the results. Then we should keep our eyes open so that we can see those results happening.

We here at the Baptist Record will be telling about as many of them as we can find out about and cram into our pages.

Personally . . .

It doesn't make any difference who I voted for for President. For the purpose of this piece, however, it probably needs to be said that I didn't vote for the successful candidate.

It was not that I didn't want to vote for Mr. Carter. On election day I had to make a choice, and I didn't want to vote against Mr. Ford. I am thankful for a free election in which we have a choice to make, and nobody needs to know what our choice is if we don't choose to make it known.

Now that the election is over, let's not let our freedom of choice cause us to be divided in spirit. For the well-being of our country, let us unite in the support of our new President with

our prayers.

By design, during the campaign this publication said nothing at all about the election. But the election is over and we have elected a new President according to our democratic processes. He needs our prayers. He is a man of prayer himself, and he knows the power of prayer.

God is just and good and all powerful. He hears our prayers, and He answers. He created everything that is, and He is the sustainer of all life. He is the God of Mr. Carter. Let's pledge ourselves to support our nation in a serious hour of need by holding Mr. Carter up to the Lord in prayer.

Now is not the time for pessimism. Now is the time to lay hold of the promises of God and expect Him to heal our land if we can just get ourselves straightened out. That will not be an easy task, but God's people can help it come about.

Early in the campaign there were questions as to whether or not Mr. Carter could function well as President because of his Christian beliefs.

What a strange notion that is. If he cannot function much better as President because of his Christianity, then something is terribly wrong.

We can help him. We must help. We must hold him up before the Lord in prayer.

Guest Editorial

Bury Differences, Seek The Common Good

by John J. Hurt
Baptist Standard

Now is the time for these United States of ours to pull themselves together "with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence" that we may again become the greatest nation on earth.

Now is the time for each of us, as did those who signed the Declaration of Independence 200 years ago, to pledge "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred Honor" to this nation of ours.

Once again, we have emerged from the penalties of a campaign which has been divisive. Much was said, much printed, that was scurrilous. The direction of government was at stake, if we be any judge; but

not the fate of our democracy.

But the people have spoken. The majority of electoral votes determine the President and he will select others in government to work with him.

Is it not time to bury petty differences? We must forget the purely selfish and give priority to the common good. Are we not at a time where there is as great a danger to our nation from within as from the outside? Let's resolve now, starting today, to pray for the President of the United States and others in places of government. Let's resolve to respect both the man and the office and turn against the man only at the polls or until he violates his trust.

Let's be as quick to commend as to condemn. The oath of office doesn't

create the perfect man but there will be more of a search for perfection if we pray and give encouragement.

It is too much to expect a moratorium on the political in a democracy. There must be an end to the vile and the violent.

Any student of history knows there will be no perfect harmony between the President and Congress, nor between government and the governed. Our appeal is for decency in disagreement instead of deceit amid discord.

The greatest tribute to our Founding Fathers in this Bicentennial year could be that we, the people, resolve to make reality of their dreams for a model of government in which they pioneered.

On The Moral Scene

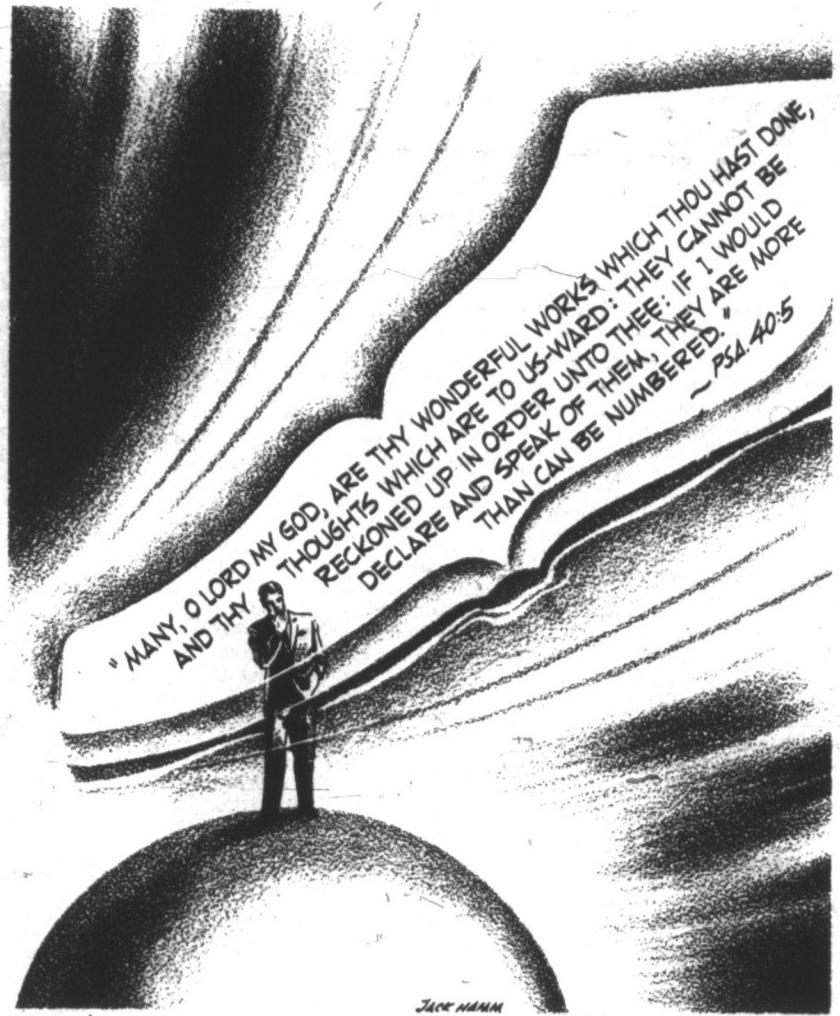
11 U. S. CORPORATIONS PAID NO '75 FEDERAL INCOME TAX — Rep. Charles Vanik (D-Ohio) said... that 11 major corporations — including Ford Motor Co., two airlines and two major New York banks — paid no federal income taxes in 1975. The 11 companies, Vanik said, had combined earnings that topped \$1 billion for the year. Corporations, by law, face a maximum federal tax rate of 48 percent on their earnings, but Vanik said many avoid taxes by taking advantage of the myriad exemptions, deductions and credits that have turned the tax code into a paradise of loopholes. In addition to Ford Motor, Vanik said, the 'freeloading' companies included Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, Chemical New York Corp., Manufacturer's Hanover Corp., Western Electric Co., Bethlehem Steel Corp., Lockheed Aircraft Corp., National Steel Corp., Phelps Dodge and Freeport Minerals. Vanik, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee... said his study showed the nation's 148 largest corporations paid

about \$20 billion in foreign taxes in 1975, while paying only \$10 billion at home. (The Washington Post, October 3, 1976)

ALCOHOLIC OFFSPRING — Children of alcoholic mothers are more likely to die or suffer permanent mental and physical disorders than offspring of non-alcoholic mothers. Writing in *Pulse*, the British medical journal, American researchers James W. Hanson, Kenneth L. Jones, and David W. Smith report that such children develop poorly, sleep badly, shake and cry a lot. The shaking may continue for years. There is no doubt, the researchers contend, that the babies receive alcohol imbibed by their mothers. Their growth remains poor, the head circumference small, the mental retardation constant, and none catch up with their contemporaries in later childhood. Those admitted to hospitals for failure to thrive do not improve despite constant care. And those taken into foster homes do no better than

those left with their chronically alcoholic parents. Prevention is the only answer; cure appears impossible. (Parade, October 3, 1976)

CLERGY PRIORITIES POLLED — An ecumenical poll of 2,400 ministers in five Protestant denominations (Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, United Presbyterian Church, and United Church of Canada), sponsored by the National Council of Churches, has found that most clergy give low priority to speaking out on social issues or working for social justice. In general, the clergy surveyed said that the most important task of the church is helping members to be Christians in all aspects of their lives. Sermon preparation received the most attention in a list of activities engaged in each week. The respondents also indicated that they spend 'too little' time in home visitation. (The Christian Century, 9-22-76)



GET INTO THE STREAM

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

My friend, Mrs. Rosalee Appleby of Canton, has written in one of her books a description of faces she remembers from her years as a missionary in Brazil. One face is that of a little boy. She says, "How beautiful the thoughts of Zeze in a villa where there were no electric lights. He took it as his special job to hold the little lamp in a can close to the songbook. . . I pray that out there in this tropical land of sun, shine and silver moonlight, Zeze is still holding a life for others to see. I can see his shining eyes as he once ran that little homemade light up and down the page when we sang 'At The Cross,' their favorite song."

There's a man in Clinton who is still "holding a light for others to see," though he has now moved into the eleventh year of medical retirement. I remember that in the 50's before he moved to Missouri, his face was always among those at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He was always on program, or at work behind the scenes, or both. Dr. John Wade Landrum lives at 1019 Tanglewood, just a few blocks from my house on Dogwood.

This year he has had three bouts with hospital totaling seven weeks, but he says "God brought me back each time, along with the best nurse in the world and a lot of good medical help, coupled with many, many prayers." That "best nurse" is his wife Barbara.

He continues his ministry to others, with the aid of an electronic typewriter and separate computer console. In 1976 he has mailed 500 letters every month to retirees in nursing homes. He writes to those who have few, if any, living relatives, and/or receive little or no mail.

The response of one retiree was, "Please pray for me. I need it for I'm so alone. I'm so all alone. No one but me." One activities director of a nursing home told Dr. Landrum: "The 26 whose names I've given to you have never received a piece of mail." Now because someone cares for them in Christ's name, a ray of light falls across the lives of these 26 each month, and the lives of 474 others.

• • •

I remember the laughter-crinkled face of Dr. French O'Shields, a Presbyterian pastor

in North Carolina who told us a funny story that turned out to be a powerful parable:

"I was on my way to the bathroom at two o'clock in the morning. Now you may wonder why a grown-up man like me was going to the bathroom at 2 a.m. Well, I have a wife and two teen-aged daughters, and that is the only time the bathroom is empty.

"You have to cross the hall to get to the bathroom from our bedroom. And in the hall is a cedar chest. It's there because we couldn't find any place else in the house to put it.

"I knew the cedar chest was there, and I made the usual maneuver to go around it. All of me, made it except Little Toe. Little Toe had a head-on collision with a corner of the cedar chest. Little Toe sent a message to Brain, 'Oh! I'm hurting!' Brain relayed the message to Right Hand: 'Left Little Toe is hurting! Can you help?' Right Hand reached down and just loved Little Toe, and eased the pain."

The preacher said, "When the world was hurting and cried out in pain, God sent His Son with a message of comfort and love."

• • •

Sunday morning W. D. and I visited Northminster Church in Jackson. Dr. Lewis Rhodes is interim pastor there, and we had not seen him in at least 15 years. He was our pastor at Daniel Memorial Church from 1958 to 1960. At a time of crisis in our lives he was our friend and counselor, and we still think of him with admiration and appreciation.

In the Northminster bulletin under The Responsive Meditation, I read a thought I want to share:

"Open your eyes and see . . . the juvenile delinquents seeking recognition and someone to care; the neighbor that carries a heavy load and needs someone to listen; the community issues that need your influence; the lonely widow who used to be in your crowd; the one who works next to you and irritates you but needs to be understood; the dope addict, racked with pain; the alcoholic, who needs to know there is a place for him in God's plan. Lord, give us the courage to give our life for others — as You did."

Book Reviews

AN OUTLINED STUDY OF ROMANS by L. E. Green (L. E. Green, 457 Fort Street, Pass-a-grille, Miss. 39067). 45 pages duplicated; \$1 at the convention; \$2 by mail.

As he has for several years, Dr. L. E. Green, a retired pastor, has prepared study material for the January Bible Study. For January of 1977 the study is in Romans. This is an exhaustive outline of the book.

IT HURTS, LORD! by Andrew D. Lester (Broadman, 128 pp.; \$1.50) An understanding counselor grapples with such traumas as the failure of one's health, the death of a loved one, and other tragic occurrences in family living. He has written this book in an effort to help people who have pain that is almost more than they can bear. Dr. Lester, director of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, is a graduate of Mississippi College.

THE LORD'S FREE PEOPLE IN A FREE LAND edited by William R. Estep (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 186 pp., \$6.50) The subtitle is "Essays in Baptist History in honor of Robert A. Baker." Baker has long been a professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and by many is considered the dean of Southern Baptist historians. A severe heart attack in 1972 severely limited his activities, and his fellow faculty members have assembled this volume to honor him. Consists of a number of studies of Baptists in American history and especially of Southern Baptist developments in that history. A valuable volume which provides important historical material. The chapter by Dr. Baker on "Baptists and Religious Liberty in the Revolutionary Era" is worth the price of the book.

"MANY, O LORD MY GOD, ARE THY WONDERFUL WORKS WHICH THOU HAST DONE, AND THY THOUGHTS WHICH ARE TO US-WARD: THEY CAN NOT BE RECKONED UP IN ORDER UNTO THEE: IF I WOULD DECLARE AND SPEAK OF THEM, THEY ARE MORE THAN CAN BE NUMBERED." — PSA. 40:5

The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Miss. 39201
Don McGregor Editor
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William H. Sellers Bus. Manager
Official Journal of The
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CONVENTION BOARD
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The Baptist Building
Box 539, Jackson, Miss. 39205
Baptist Record Advisory Committee: J. B. Foster, M.
Clegg; Vance Dyson, Paul; James Carr, Forrest; Carroll
Cork; Aberdeen; Sid Harris; Houston; Hardy DeLoach, New
Orleans; Eddie Davis; Jimmie Clegg; Jimmie Clegg; Jimmie Clegg;
Subscription \$3.00 a year payable in advance.
Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas
Issue. Class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi,
and at additional offices.



Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing

Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson was the setting October 31 for an "Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing." The guest musician was Dr. Edwin McNeely of Jackson, pictured at right. Dr. McNeely was a professor in music and evangelism from 1921-1961 at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Since 1961, he has spent his retirement leading the singing in conventions, associational meetings, revivals, etc. As Dr. McNeely led the singing, the congregation squinted their eyes in the dim light provided by kerosene lamps and joined their voices with the sound of an old pump organ. The organ was provided by Paul and Sarah Harrell and was played by Mrs. Harrell, above. Tom Byrd, left, is the minister of music at Briarwood. Rev. Louis Smith is the pastor.

Home Board Names First Asian Staffer

ATLANTA (BP) — The first Asian staff member has been elected by the directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Peter Chen of San Francisco was named assistant director of the department of language missions, effective December 1.

Directors also elected another staff member, accepted resignations from two others, appointed 12 missionaries, six missionary associates, 13 missionary associates-students, and granted church pastoral aid (CPA) to 12 mission pastors.

Besides Chen, directors elected Nelson Tilton, current pastor-director of Rochester (N.Y.) Baptist Church, as assistant director of the board's department of church extension.

Two other members of the staff resigned — Daniel Sanchez, assistant director of the language missions department, and Forrest (Woody) Watkins, a director of associational evangelism. Sanchez will become director of evangelism for the New York Baptist Convention, and Watkins will become director of associational missions for the Hamilton County Baptist Association in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Chen has been associated with the Home Mission Board for 25 years and was pastor of the first Southern Baptist Chinese congregations in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Arthur B. Rutledge, the board's executive director-treasurer, said Chen is the "first Asian to serve in a staff capacity, although we have had Asians serving in other capacities for the board."

Oscar Romo, director of language missions, said Chen's ability to speak the 10 dialects of Chinese and to read

Japanese are "assets as we work to enlarge our work with people of Asian descent."

Currently, Chen is pastor of Chinese Grace Baptist Church in San Francisco. He is a native of Shanghai, China, and graduated from two schools in China: Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex.; Furman University, Greenville, S.C.; Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and San Francisco State University.

Tilton, a native of Elizabeth, La., has been working in Rochester since 1972. Previously, he was pastor on Gibsland, La., and Honey Grove, Tex.

He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, La., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Missionary appointees are: George and Betty Bullard of Louisville; Donald and Jeanette Gillis of Huron, Ohio; Lowell and Ann Lawson of Louisville; Arthur and Doris Nunn of Petaluma, Calif.; Jimmy and Donna Pittman of San Francisco; and Bill and Gwen Ryan of Whitney, Tex.

Missionary associates named were:

William and Kay Barber, of Richmond, Ind.; Sang-Sueh and Han-Hee Lee of San Diego, Calif.; and Agapito and Josephine Quintero of Three Rivers, Tex.

Missionary associates-students named were Lee and Joanne Chappell of New Albany, Ind.; Alonso and Susie Garcia of San Antonio; Sylvia Morris of Louisville; Deborah Rainwater of New Orleans; Robert and Becky Sumrall of Louisville; Felipe and Martha Ureno of Fresno, Calif.; John and Diane Worchester of Fort Worth; and David Arp of Fort Worth.

Names In The News

Bill and Noreta Morgan, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived in the States on furlough. Their address will be 1427 Fox, Memphis, Tenn. Their daughter, Donna, is a sophomore at Mississippi College. Mr. Morgan, a Mississippian and an MC graduate, is the nephew of Mrs. Ralph Burke, office secretary, Christian Action Commission, Jackson.

Billie Jo Ashley, center, has completed 20 years perfect attendance in Sunday School at Providence Church, Cleveland. In the picture with her is her pastor, the Rev. I. L. Hill, left, and the present Sunday school director, Otis Hawkins.

Dot Lot, missionary to Brazil, may be addressed at Caixa 35, 74000 Goiania, Goias, Brazil. She is a native of Sumrall, Miss.

Fred Hogue is the new music director at Bayou View Church, Gulfport. The Rev. Tom Gautier is the pastor.

Cindy Cutts of Dockery Church, Cleveland, was presented a pin on October 24 to celebrate her fifth year of perfect attendance in Sunday School. It was displayed on a chain with four other pins previously presented to her. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards Cutts of RFD, Cleveland.

Dr. Willis Alfred Brown, Sr., former associate director of the Chaplains Commission of the Home Mission Board, SBC, has been presented the "Service to Humanity" award by Mississippi College. The award, initiated to help the college celebrate its 150th anniversary as an institution of higher learning and its 125th year of association with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was presented to Dr. Brown at the Rankin County Baptist Association by Rev. Robert Wall, director of church relations at the college.

Convention Sermon

The Triumphant Church — Following

By William F. Evans

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, 'Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?' (Matthew 16:13). Simon Peter then gave one of the most important answers that mortal lips could ever utter when he said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:16). Too long we have proclaimed Jesus Christ in our churches as less than 'the Christ of God.'

We are thinking about the Church triumphant, following the "lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). When the church truly follows the Lamb of God, then the church will be triumphant. This does not mean to say that we will win every person in the world to Christ nor the entire world to our Lord. This should be our desire and concern, yet we know that this will never happen.

We fail to be triumphant when we magnify the concepts and ideas of man rather than remain true to the Word of God. When man deviates from the Word of God, then man made religions spring up all around us.

Recently a handsome young man knocked at my door. He was well groomed and well dressed. He had the finest manners and seemed highly intelligent. This young man wanted to give me some literature and then sell me some. I invited him to come in. Then I took the initiative and asked, "Are you a Christian?" He replied, "Yes." Then I asked him if he had ever been born again. He looked puzzled and said, "What does that mean?" I then rephrased my question and said, "Have you ever been saved by the grace of God?" The young man looked dumbfounded and could only say, "I don't understand what you are talking about." With this, he walked away to peddle his religion to someone else.

People everywhere are seeking a new thrill or some great sign. Many people are starting new religions, and others are dissatisfied with what they call the old. A young college student approached his pastor and implored him to help him start a new religion.

The pastor replied that he would if the young man could find someone to love him like Jesus, to die for him like Jesus, and then to rise from the dead to preserve him and keep him. With this, the young man walked away because he knew that no one but Jesus could fulfill this wish.

In our churches we have people

seeking signs and mysterious happenings. Beloved, we don't need a sign or miracle. The miracle took place on Calvary when Jesus cried out, "It is finished." He once and for all completed our salvation. Our faith was not established by some emotional feeling or consummated by some outward happening, but by the precious blood of our Lord Jesus our faith was finalized.

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

is the "same yesterday, today and forever."

It does not need improving.

If the church is to be triumphant, then we must preach without any reservation that Jesus Christ was crucified and is coming again.

The gospel of our Lord

does not change. However, the methods and means to get the gospel out to a lost and dying world is ever changing.

We must take the gospel to

the people because they will not come to us.

The church must use every method and means possible to witness

for the eleventh consecutive year. Eleven years ago Miss Hubbard made a rededication and commitment to be a faithful witness after 25

concerning the saving power of our blessed Saviour.

The Church Triumphant Following our Divine Creator

One's theology of the church hinges on his faith in our Divine Creator. The Bible declares, "In the beginning God" (Genesis 1:1). God has a plan for everything. There is His law of Astronomy, His law of Physics, His law of Chemistry, His law of Biology. Without a doubt, God has a plan to redeem sinful men from their sins. God cried out on the cross, "It is finished." Never again would Jesus have to die on the cross. "By his own blood he entered once into the Holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

He sealed us by his precious blood, he secured us by his blood, and he eternally keeps us by his blood. Redemption can never take place but one time, and that is for eternity. The church triumphant must proclaim the eternal redemption of our Lord.

God created the universe. John declared of Jesus, "All things were made by him; without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3). Our divine Creator also brought into being His church. The Bible declares, "Jesus loved the church and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

Throughout history, the degree of faith in the living God and the acceptability of His Divine Word has either produced a positive faith that is dynamic or a diluted faith that has become stagnant. When we individually and collectively renew our faith and our vows to the Creator God, then we see the church emerging triumphant.

Listen to Paul speak to the church at Colosse. "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist" (Col. 1:16,17). If the church is to be triumphant, then we must say with the song writer: "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord."

People everywhere are seeking a new thrill or some great sign. Many people are starting new religions, and others are dissatisfied with what they call the old. A young college student approached his pastor and implored him to help him start a new religion.

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It does not need improving.

If the church is to be triumphant, then we must follow our redeeming Lord

"who is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing that he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).

The church must say with boldness that Christ alone can make atonement for sin.

"Without the shedding of the blood, there is no remission for sin."

Man has been seeking to bypass God's plan of redemption for countless ages.

The church triumphant needs to say

to the sinful world that in Christ there is eternal forgiveness from sin.

"There is therefore now no condemnation

for the eleventh consecutive year. Eleven years ago Miss Hubbard made a rededication and commitment to be a faithful witness after 25

years of unconcern. To this day she has kept her vow! She has served in various positions of service, the most recent being general secretary of the Sunday School at Tempie.

Rev. Robert W. Warren was ordained by the Long Lake Church, Warren Association, on October 24. Long Lake called him as pastor in July. He is a junior at Mississippi College. Rev. James Messer preached the ordination sermon. Rev. Warren is married to the former Rhonda Joy Downen of West Plains, Mo.

tion to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1). We must say to the guilty sinner, "Christ died for you." We must say that Christ finished his work and completed God's plan to redeem men from their sins. Jesus cried out on the cross, "It is finished."

Never again would Jesus have to die on the cross. "By his own blood he entered once into the Holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

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The Church Triumphant Following our Risen Saviour

"We are reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:10). Jesus said, "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

The church triumphant must say with authority, "He is not here: for he is risen" (Matt. 28:6). Surely "he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed: (Isaiah 53:5). However, there would be no victory in his death without the resurrection. The resurrection does several things. First, it assures us of the hope necessary to preach the word of God. The resurrection gives us the boldness to speak with authority in his blessed name. The hope of the resurrection empowers a dead and stagnant church to pursue with victory the mission program of our Lord.

How the church needs to claim the promises of our Lord. Every saved person has the "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit to keep him. What we need daily is the infilling of the Holy Spirit to carry us on to victory in His name. The power of our Lord is available. We must go forth to preach, baptize, and teach His gospel of love and redemption.

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Today's Youth

Pet Sticks Splinter Pet Rocks' Territory

Move over, pet rocks. Pet Sticks are splintering your territory.

It probably started with Theodore Roosevelt. You remember, Roosevelt believed in walking softly and carrying a big stick.

And if it was good enough for the 26th President, it's certainly good enough for "Powerline," the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission's half-hour radio show for teenagers.

Beginning in October, "Powerline" will offer listeners—free—their very own Pet Sticks.

"Asking listeners to write us 'For freebies' is one way to gauge listener numbers and determine if what we are saying, seriously, on the program has any meaning," said Claude Cox. Cox writes and produces the show for the Radio-TV Commission.

"This sort of thing enables us to send every listener more complete information about Christianity than we are able to offer on the air. And if someone writes for a free offer and says, 'By the way, can you help me with this problem?' then we have another opportunity to talk about Christ."

"Every Pet Stick packet mailed to a 'Powerline' listener requesting it will include a detailed salvation brochure with careful explanation of how to become a Christian," said Cox.

"Powerline," once described by Paul M. Stevens, Commission president, as "a dangerous opportunity," is heard on 787 stations across the country.

"We knew when we began 'Power-

line' seven years ago that we were taking a chance by using some of the music teenagers listen to and relating it to Christ," Stevens said. "But the alternative was to do nothing and leave an entire generation of radio listeners without any religious programming."

In the seven years of its existence, "Powerline" has received thousands of letters from young people, many of them with serious problems. Thousands of problems have been handled carefully by the trained counseling staff maintained by the Radio and Television Commission.

"We make constant studies to keep up with what the kids are interested in," Cox said. "At one time we sent out free posters for their rooms. Then iron-on transfers for tee shirts became popular, so we switched to iron-ons. That has just about played out so we looked for something else."

About that time the Pet Rock gambit began to pay off for entrepreneurs catering to the needs of apartment dwellers seeking a pet that was clean, quiet, and didn't eat much.

"The Pet Stick is clean, quiet, and doesn't eat much either," said Cox. "In addition, it's a chip off the old block and from a proud family tree. It's not redwood, of course. That would make it animalistic."

"Actually, it's from upper middle-class wood like spruce, pine, or oak. You must remember that Pet Sticks are made, not born."



To Sing At Ocean Springs

At First Church, Ocean Springs, December 4, at 7 p.m., a group called Charity will be presented in concert. This Hattiesburg based group is made up of college age young people. By the end of a year of concerts, they will have travelled 75,000 miles. Charity Ministries is managed by Shelly and Norma Coulter; the musical director is Rod France. Steve Chastain is minister of youth and music at First, Ocean Springs.

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Vicksburg, Mississippi

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All former members, pastors, and staff members are invited.

Services are as follows:

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.;
Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.: (Rev. Bobby Thompson)
(Dinner On the Ground)
Afternoon Service Immediately Following
(Rev. Lynn Turner)
(Rev. Cari McGraw)
(Special Music: Bill Clark)
Church Training 6:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 7:00 p.m. (Rev. H. L. Fewell)

Young Nigerian Minister Among Guests At Garaywa

By Anne McWilliams

Bennett Enyioha hopes to bring a wife to the next International Student Conference at Camp Garaywa. He has already picked her out, he admitted with a broad grin and a sparkle in his eyes. The hard part is that he hasn't seen her for two years, and the courtship must all be by mail, for Felicia Nkwoada is still in Nigeria. "I hope she can be here at least by June, so that we can get married then," Bennett said. "She has already begun work on all the red tape that is involved in coming here as a student."

The November 5-7, 1976, International Student Conference was Bennett's second since he came to the United States to study at William Carey College. "I have been a Christian since I was ten," he said, "and almost ever since that time I have felt that God wanted me to be a preacher." After graduation from Carey he wants to study at a seminary in the States, and thinks perhaps that it will be Southern Seminary.

"I chose William Carey because Dr. John McFadden, medical missionary to Nigeria from Hattiesburg, talked to me a lot about the school." Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, his sponsor, is helping to pay his expenses as a student.

"I think that Felicia needs to come here to study so that she can be of greater service to our people as a pastor's wife when we return to Nigeria," Bennett said. Felicia will need a sponsor, too.

Bennett gave several reasons why he plans to attend the next International Students' Conference. He said, "I like to make friends from other nations. Also the conference helps me to know more about Mississippi, because I meet students from other schools in



the state. And I think the conference is a good way for us as Christians to reach out to international students in the state." He believes that it is a good experience for Christian students, as well as for those who are not Christians. "Some of my friends who are not Christians were more ready to listen to my testimony about what Christ has meant to me, after they had been here to an International Students' Conference. One friend in particular thought she was a Christian because she was raised in a Christian home. But at the conference she realized that being a Christian meant having a personal relationship with Christ."

He added, "These international students in the state are the most talented and brilliant in their countries. And they will be the future leaders of their countries. If they are reached for Christ here, they can make a great impact on the world for Him."

Bennett Enyioha was born in Lagos, Nigeria when his parents worked there

for a short time. Most of his life he has lived in Owerri, in the section now known as Biafra. The son of a trader, he has two brothers and one sister. "I always attended the Baptist church in Owerri," he says, "but my parents were Episcopalians before they became Baptists."

As a student in Africa, he liked to play soccer, but here his favorite game is tennis.

"Many of the activities of the Baptist students are the same in Nigeria as they are here," he decided. "They have conferences and retreats there, too. In Biafra the Baptist schools were taken over by the government. However, Baptist student work is carried on in the colleges and universities. It is not strong there as here."

As he looks to the future, he says that 1 Corinthians 5:17 presents a challenge to him: "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Acteen Royalty

Queens

First Church, New Albany
Sarah Garrett
Lisa Littlejohn
Tounia Swords

Queens, Regent

First, New Albany
Ellen Bramlett
Beth Hopper
Sherry Martin
Ginger Maxey
Sally Maxey
Carol Anne Parks
Pam Powell
Cindi Rodgers
Lydia Wilbanks
Sandy Culver
First, Houston
Laurie Horn

Queens Regent in Service

First, New Albany
Sandy Culver
Kathy Dailey
Dianne Dunlap
Ruby Martin
Margaret Parks
Marilyn Parks

Queens-with-Scepter

First Church, Houston
Melissa Conch
Sherry Lacey
Beth Lowry



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Slave Trade For Summer Missions

"Who'll make it twenty-five; who'll make it fifty?" shouted the auctioneer at the annual William Carey College First Student Union slave sale on the Hattiesburg campus. Slave Sharon Dingwall smiles as she anticipates being purchased by the highest bidder.

Steve expressed some disappointment in the slow beginnings of the off-campus programs, but admitted he is really more interested in individual workers, than in having great numbers of participants.

Tim Thomas, director of religious activities, explained in the latest newsletter, "B.S.U. is a program that seeks to involve students in an inward journey in quest of the answer to the ques-



Clower Convincing

Jerry Clower of Yazoo City, the nation's number one storyteller and recording artist, held a Mississippi College audience spellbound while giving his Christian testimony. Clower visited the campus to receive the "Service to Humanity" award. With him on stage is his pastor, Rev. James Yates of the First Baptist Church of Yazoo City. (M.C. Photo by Ronnie Killenrew)

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Why Go To Church?

By Bill Duncan

Psalm 95; Colossians 3:12-17;
Hebrews 10:23-25

People go to church for many different reasons. Some go to hear the sermon. Some go to hear the music and maybe to sing themselves. Some go to be with other people. Some go because as a child they were carried and they got the church going habit. Some go because they feel the church is an essential institution in the community, and they know that if people did not attend the services the church would die. So they go because they want the church to live.

Truman B. Douglass has written a book entitled *Why Go To Church?* In the book he states that a person can never value or understand the meaning of the church as an outsider or an observer; one must be a committed participant. To see the church and to understand why people go to church, one has to get inside. One has to be involved to care about the church and what it stands for. The church can never be understood if only seen objectively. The outsider may try to understand, but he will always be puzzled and will never really get the real reasons.

When God's people are together, they affirm their mutual faith, strengthen one another, and join together in praising God. Worship, praise, thanksgiving, prayer and inspiration should be a part of every worship service. Yet these may not be what one gets out of going. Some people may just feel loved.

The gathering of the church always has more than just people. The Lord promised that He would be present, and that affirms that it is just not an ordinary meeting.

Invitation To Praise

Psalm 95

The Psalm 95 was used in the dedication of the second temple. It contains parts that were to be sung and parts that were to be spoken. The opening verses of praise may have been sung by a choir as they walked toward the temple. They are an invitation to gather for worship and for participation. "Let us sing". This is indeed a call to worship. Joining in song suggests a healthy spirit. Some people cannot sing, but they find the encouragement of the psalmist's words: Make a joyful noise. The highest use of the human voice is to praise the Lord. People who learn to use their voice skillfully know a freedom that others who are less fortunate may never have.

Praise is expressed in thanksgiving. "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving." This is a literal confession of what God is and what He has done. The word presence could be translated "his face." Christians who worship the Lord have one thing in common. They all face toward God in Christ with awe and praise and thanksgiving.

"For the Lord is a great God." To think on God is to praise Him. Praise in worship should cause emotion to be aroused and expressed. A great anthem of praise may arouse a sense of elation and joy. God is supreme as creator and redeemer. He is above all and beyond all things created. God is the highest and the greatest as the one and only God. Why not burst into song when you feel the great joy of praise to God?

Invitation To Share

Colossians 3:12-17

The Christian has already put on the new man (the regenerate nature). Now in verses 12-17, he is urged to clothe himself with the garments which benefit the new man. These virtues which are mentioned here have to do with relationships among Christ-

ians. Many of these qualities of life, if present in the community of believers, will eliminate, or at least reduce, frictions. All of these are manifestations of love, which is mentioned as the crowning virtue. In verses 15-17, we see Paul depict the frame of mine which should characterize those who profess to be Christ's people. The Christians who are members of one body should let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts. This peace is "that calm of mind which is not ruffled by adversity, overclouded by sin or a remorseful conscience, or disturbed by the fear and the approval of death." The rule of peace is an expressive term which originally meant "to act as an umpire." Nothing is to be done that will violate that peace.

In the church, we are to allow the message of Christ to indwell our minds. We are to submit to the demands of the Christian message and to let it be so deeply implanted within us that it controls all our thinking.

Therefore, when we have the peace of Christ in our hearts and the message of Christ in our minds, the devil does not have much room to work. Under the influence of the word of Christ, Christians are to do two things: (1) They are to teach and admonish one another. (2) Using psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, they are to sing with grace in their hearts to God. In all the relationships of life we are to act with an awareness that we are God's people. We need an abiding sense of God's goodness to us, and we need to be careful to thank Him.

The emphasis is on Christians, living in peaceful, cordial, and appreciative relationships to each other. Nothing makes friends or puts down enemies faster than simply being thankful. This thankfulness to God should be sung in the heart.

The Invitation To Gather

No matter how busy we become in the ministry of the church, there is a compelling obligation to return to the

Sunday School Lesson: International For November 21

Walking In Love

By Wm. J. Fallis

Romans 14:1 to 15:8; 1 Corinthians 8

A special kind of "walk"? Oh, yes, you've noticed it and remembered it as a sort of badge of an actor, an athlete, a comedian, or even one of your friends. You would recognize that walk even if you could not see his face or hear his voice. It is distinctive; it represents him and his approach to life. That suggests what Paul meant when he used the word in his letters. It referred to a person's way of living and acting. Walk could mean conduct and behavior. That is the meaning in Romans 14:15, the source of our lesson title. It is referring to a special kind of walk — of life — guided by love.

The Lesson Explained
Neither Strong Nor Weak To Judge
(14:10-12)

Chapters 12 and 13 deal with the kind of life the reconciled person should live, including both general and specific instructions. Chapter 14 faces up to the tensions that may arise when church members differ in their attempts to live by the law of love. Evidently he who was "weak in the faith"

(v. 1) was quite conscientious about certain laws and customs; he was not mature enough to see what was unimportant. He tended to be a vegetarian (v. 2), and this is probably related to the issue of eating meat that had been consecrated to idols, which Paul had discussed in 1 Corinthians 8.

In verse 3 Paul commanded that neither the weak nor the strong should judge the other. Both had been accepted by God and both gave thanks to him (v. 6). Now in verse 10 he asked each one why he insisted on judging and despising his brother. How can we afford to judge another when we realize we all must be judged by God? He quoted Isaiah 45:23 as the basis for that conviction. Human judgment is inappropriate because eventually every human must testify about himself before God.

Put Kingdom Values First
(14:13-18)

In these verses Paul turned to those who are strong in the faith, who live relaxed in the freedom Christ gives. The second clause in verse 13 will read more clearly if you use the word "decide" instead of "judge." The person strong in faith must avoid behavior that might cause his weaker brother to sin. The stronger person might be convinced, as was Paul, that "there is nothing unclean of itself," but he will disturb the weaker person if the stronger

eats meat which the former thinks is unclean. In that case the stronger person is not really walking in love. He is running the risk of destroying him "for whom Christ died."

Thus, the freedom in Christ which the stronger person glories in may actually "acquire a bad name" (TEV). Kingdom values are far more important than insisting on one's rights as to what he may eat and drink. As a person serves Christ in righteousness, peace, and joy, he is acceptable to God and to man.

Live To Strengthen Others
(14:19-23)

In verses 13 and 21 Paul warned his readers about being stumbling blocks, but in verse 19 he struck a positive note. The stronger person must act in such a way as to "edify" — build up or strengthen — others. Believers must accept responsibility for their influence, in the church as well as outside. To maintain a constructive influence, they should be willing to refrain from meat and wine. This point is stressed in 1 Corinthians 8:9-13.

The closing verses of this chapter urge those of mature faith not to brag about it but keep it between himself and God. He can be happy if he feels confident about what he approves. "But if he has doubts about what he eats, God condemns him when he eats it, because his action is not based on faith. And anything that is not based on faith is sin" (TEV). This calls for maturity in understanding all that is involved, rather than living by a neat list of do's and don't's.

European Federation Council's Hungary Meeting Is A First

BUDAPEST (BP) — The first meeting of the European Baptist Federation (EBF) Council ever held in an East European socialist republic drew the organization's best attendance in history, with some 80 delegates and other participants.

Speakers and guests from several denominations and organizations, including Baptists, highlighted inter-church cooperation in Hungary.

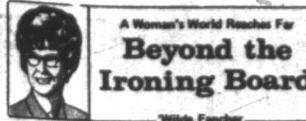
Presiding was Alexei Bichkov, general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the USSR and current EBF president.

New EBF secretary-treasurer Gerhard Claas of Hamburg, Germany, told the assembly that the Budapest meeting "is the fulfillment of a dream," a theme carried through the entire meeting.

"We are here to think of our special situation," Claas said. "On the one hand, two-thirds of European Baptists live in Eastern Europe, and we would like to absorb some of the spiritual life of these churches . . . but the second side is that Europe is now the only continent where the total number of Baptists is decreasing.

Claas, in his closing address, said, "Sometimes we have spoken less about the Lord than about Baptists." He spoke through a Hungarian woman interpreter who is an ordained Methodist minister.

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Next week I'll tell you about my operation!

Not really, I won't. Hearing about operations is worse than hearing about grandchildren, I understand. I always figured that the only bad about hearing about either operations or grandchildren is that those who have either can't wait until the other hushes so that they can tell about their own, be it operations or grandchildren.

I don't have any grandchildren, and it's been a long time since I had an operation. I'd forgotten how many things run through your mind when you are waiting to have surgery. While we anticipate on horrendous news and no complications, there's still an occasional backing up of the breath into the throat, and I've swallowed hard a lot since Friday when I learned about the surgery.

My last surgery was when the boys were still small, and my main concern was that I get to be around to help them get through the worst of the growing-up process. I have been around that long, and I'm thankful.

This time I've thought a lot about things I hope the boys will remember as the years go by, things I'll be here to remind them of, I'm sure, but things I hope they'll remember without having to be reminded. Things like remembering all the places we did let them go, and forgetting the times they got mad when we wouldn't let them go somewhere. Like the special things, often not too expensive, that we did find money to get them, and forgetting the things that were too expensive or not advisable. Like all the unusual things we got to do, and forgetting the times when plans had to be changed because of Dad's work. Like all the stories we read to them, the times we laughed, the times we were close because of fear, the times we saw the hand of God on our lives, the times we looked back and saw that a decision was right, the fact that even when we argued, there was love, and a million other things I could name, and you could name about your family.

So, next week I won't tell you about my operation. I'm going to write about something else. Meantime, the worst thing about my operation, at this point, is that I will miss the state Convention, that fantastic time of the Baptist year when the singing is lustier, the handshaking heartier, the backslapping more moving, the amen-ing louder, and the preaching about as good as it can get. — Address: Box 9151, Jackson, Ms. 39208

gathered church. To gather and to contribute to the strength of the church is our first obligation. But we also need to draw renewal from the church. The renewal we receive from the church is in proportion to the strength we contribute to it. The strength is the strength of loving presence, the strength of personal concern, and the strength of the reinforcement of others.

We are to hold on to what we believe. The world is going to try to discourage our faith. We will need to gather and strengthen one another in order to enforce our faith. Without any doubt, the persistence of the individual in the faith depends on group reinforcement. Yet each person must contribute if the work is to be meaningful. When a Christian begins to give, he will always have something to give.

Encourage the indifferent and the rebellious church members to be regular in church attendance. The writer of Hebrews was negative admonition — "don't stay away from our church meetings."

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7
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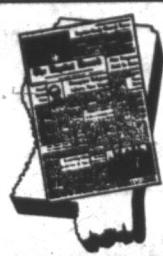
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Just For The Record



Midway Church, Pontotoc County, observed Debt-Free Sunday, October 24, on the church's 11th anniversary. Twelve of 31 charter members were present. It was also the fourth anniversary of the pastor, the Rev. Winston Ross. The church was organized on June 29, 1965. Services in the new building were begun on October 24, 1965, with Therman Bryant, uncle of the present pastor, as guest speaker. A noteburning ceremony October 31, highlighted the celebration of freedom from debt on all facilities, church building, and pastorum. L to R: Pastor Winston Ross; Chairman of Deacons W. C. Mathews. Back row, l to r: Deacons W. H. Jackson, Leon Ashmore, Ken Roye, and Milburn Stevens.



Society Hill Church, Jeff Davis Association, recently honored Mrs. Maudie Fortenberry, left, for her many years of dedicated service as church treasurer. Rev. Tom McCurley, pastor, right, presented an inscribed silver tray, a gift from the church. Also a covered dish meal was held in her honor.

Forest Hill, Jackson, Rev. Wilbur Irwin, pastor, will hold Dedication Day services Nov. 21 for a newly renovated sanctuary. The day will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 followed by worship at 11 and a covered dish dinner.



FOXWORTH, FIRST PASTOR GIVEN CAR: In a special dedication service October 24, members of Foxworth, First Church, presented their pastor, Rev. Sam Jones, and his family with a new Plymouth car. Rev. R. H. Crawley brought the morning message and Rev. J. T. Clark the dedicatory message and prayer. Both are members of the church. The church family gathered in front of the pastorum where the car was draped, at which time the deacons unveiled it. Rev. Crawley presented the keys to the pastor's family.

Training National Leaders Urgent Need, Baptists Told

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (RNS) — Leadership training is urgently need to train nationals to assume missionary responsibilities in their own countries, Southern Baptist mission officials reported here.

"The increased desire for independence — political, economic, and cultural — is causing many people (abroad) to look upon missionaries and all foreigners as being a threat to these desires," said Bryant Hicks, associate professor of Missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here and a former missionary in Asia.

Davis Saunders, an Africa area secretary for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, noted that "we always assume that (closure to

U.S. missionaries) may come. Our primary goal is always the development of the churches and the training of leadership."

Mr. Saunders said a missionary couple has recently returned to strife-torn Angola "and their first task is leadership training . . . in case they are forced to leave again."

Bill Wakefield, area secretary for Southeast Asia, stressed the importance of training national leaders in overseas educational institutions whenever possible, rather than bringing them to the U.S. to study here.

He said foreign students often encounter the problem of "Americanization" and find adjustment difficult when they return to work in their native lands.



Singing Women To Appear At Pleasant Grove

The Mississippi Singing Women, under direction of Mrs. Nan Grantham, Consultant, Church Music Department, MBCB, will sing in the evening worship service at Pleasant Grove Church of Brookhaven on Sunday, November 21.

At the invitation of the pastor, Rev. Gerald Aultman, the group will have the entire service. The music will include early American hymn tunes, spirituals, gospel songs and songs of Christian patriotism. Since the ladies are from several churches in the state with varied backgrounds and experience, each concert features different solos, duets, testimonies, instrumental and visual presentations. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Neighboring churches have been invited to attend.

MOVING?

If you are planning a change of address, please notify The Baptist Record of your old and your new address. It would help if you could supply all of the information that is to be found on the address label on your paper. An easy way to do this would be to affix the address label to the space below and send it to The Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

NAIROBI, Kenya—The Baptist Mission of East Africa celebrated its 20th year at the annual mission meeting and prayer retreat held recently. On hand for the celebration were the Southern Baptist missionaries who pioneered the work in Kenya and Tanzania. These special guests included the G. Webster Carrolls and the Earl R. Martins now serving in Uganda and Kenya; Mr. and Mrs. Sammy DeBord, former missionaries now living in Louisiana where he is a pastor; Mr. and Mrs. David L. Saunders, former missionaries now living in Richmond, Va., where he is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa; and Mrs. Juanita Harper, former missionary.

Stamp said at least four other Baptist groups have mission work in Nicaragua. There are over 80 Baptist churches in the country including all groups and representing nearly one-sixth of the total evangelical community. Leaders estimate that there are over 500 evangelical churches with at least 20,000 adherents.

Southern Baptist missionaries will maintain a fraternal relationship with the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and serve the churches of the convention and other evangelical groups.

Virtue has more admirers than followers.

People who like to worry have a greater and more varied number of things to choose from than ever before.

Missions Is Hot Topic

With about 2500 Southern Baptists currently subscribing to the Round Table Book Club, predictions soar to 3000 for the first year's memberships.

The Round Table Book Club is a marketing plan for books on missions operated by Baptist Book Stores at the request of Woman's Missionary Union. WMU is promoting the missions reading club as part of its 1976-79 emphasis on teaching missions.

About half of all current subscribers to Round Table Book Club are church libraries, according to Bonham.

The first quarter's selections on Bangladesh, Ecuador, and witness were mailed before October with minor problems.

Reaching All, edited by Paul E. Little; *How Can I Find You, God*, by Marjorie Holmes; and *All Were Meant to Be*, by Letha Scanzoni and Nancy Hardesty will be the upcoming three choices for Round Table Book Club reading for the January, February, March quarter.

Bahama Baptist Leader Dies

Rev. Enoch Backford, Sr., J.P.M.B.E., one of the most dedicated, effective and influential Baptist leaders in the Bahamas, died on November 2, at the age of 82. At that time he had been the superintendent of an association of 28 churches, the Bahamas Baptist Union for 44 years. He was the pastor emeritus of Salem Union Baptist Church, having retired in Febuary, 1974, after 42 years as pastor.

Rev. Backford was one of the founders of the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention and was its second president, serving from 1942 to 1954. It was during his presidency that the Baptist primary school, Jordan Memorial School, was established, and that the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention was invited to send missionaries to begin the Bahamas Baptist Bible Institute. He was responsible for the first organized women's work among Baptists in the Bahamas.

Rev. Backford received his higher education in the United States at Morehouse College in Atlanta and Florida Normal in St. Augustine. He served overseas in the US Armed Forces in World War I. He is survived by three daughters.

Funeral services November 7 were broadcast on nationwide radio.

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Inquiries should be addressed to Staff Coordinator, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535. Glorieta, owned and operated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, is dedicated to Christian leadership training.

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